

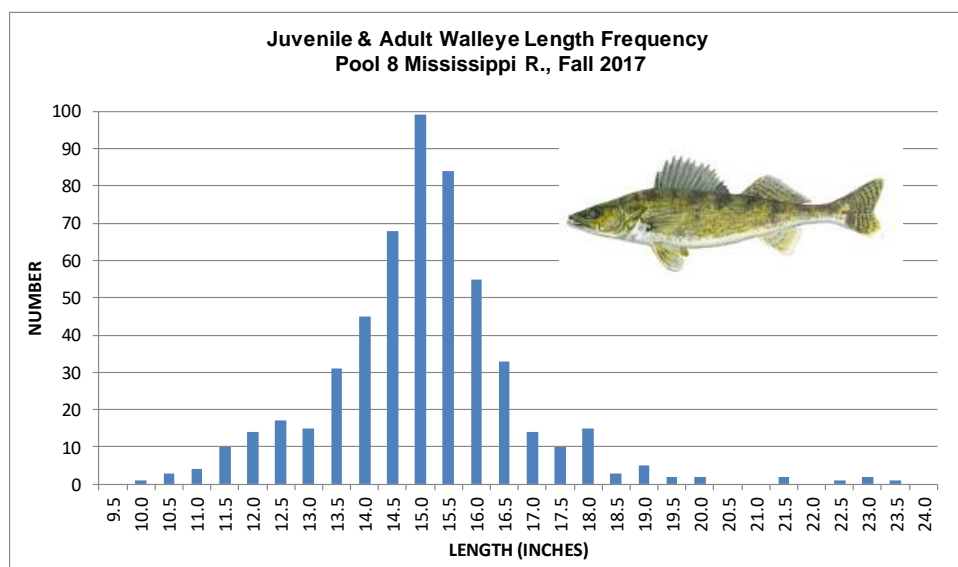


WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET. POOL 8, MISSISSIPPI RIVER, JUVENILE AND ADULT WALLEYE AND SAUGER

RIVER: MISSISSIPPI RIVER, POOL 8

COUNTY: LA CROSSE

YEAR: 2017

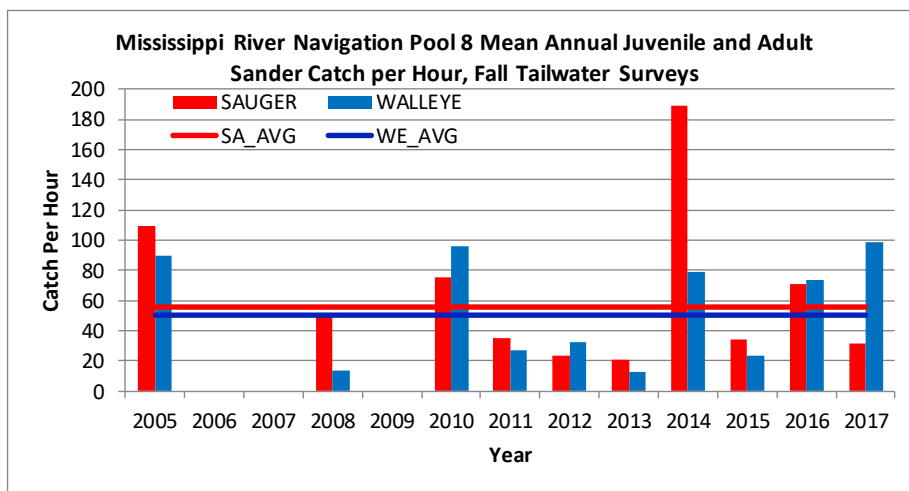


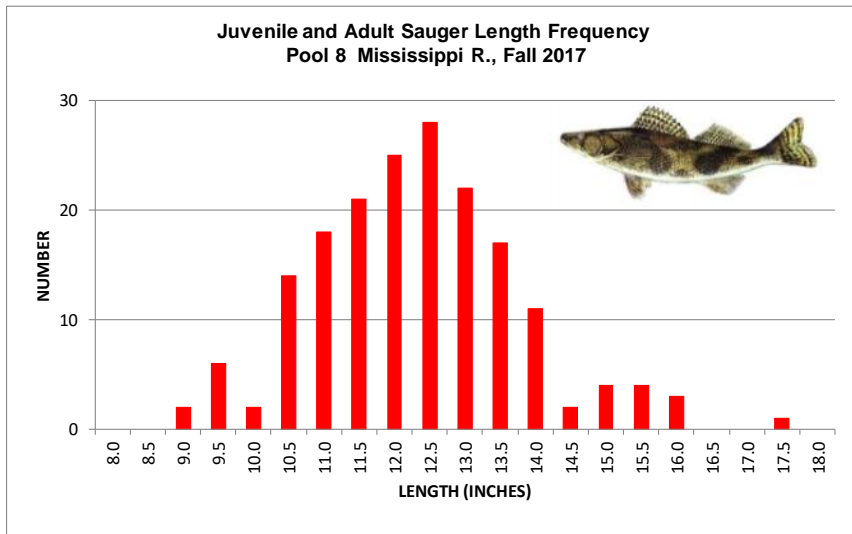
The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources surveyed Pool 8 of the Mississippi River in La Crosse County to determine the health of the walleye and sauger fishery. Over a three-day period in October, a DNR crew collected a total of 537 juvenile and adult walleye and 180 sauger by electrofishing at night in near-shore areas and wingdams in the tailwater of Pool 8. Juvenile walleye and sauger captured were larger than 9.9 and 8.8 inches respectively. The largest walleye and sauger captured were 23.4 and

17.3 inches, respectively. Catch rate for walleye and sauger was 99 and 32 fish per hour.

Since 2005, abundance of walleye, as measured by our catch rate, has remained about the same. Although annual abundance estimates varied from 8 to 99 walleye per hour. We saw no trend, either increasing or decreasing, from our samples.

Since 1983, average yearly size of juvenile and adult walleye has varied from 11.8 to 16.7 inches. These fluctuations may be due to varying abundances of annual age classes. We found no long-term trend in annual size, suggesting fish size has remained about the same for the last 35 years. Our sampling efforts in Pool 8 currently indicate a stable and self-sustaining walleye population.





Since 2005, abundance of juvenile and adult sauger has not significantly changed and there was no statistical trend in abundance. Since 1983, average yearly size of juvenile and adult sauger has varied from 8.3 to 12.2 inches. These fluctuations may be due to varying abundances of annual age classes growing into or leaving the population. There was no trend in size from 1983-2017. We found a decreasing trend in average sizes of sauger (0.9 inches from 1994 to 2017) suggesting smaller fish in recent years.

since 1994 suggests we should continue to monitor the population in Pool 8. Downstream in Pool 9, walleye and sauger average size also declined from 1999-2017 by 1.3 inches. However, from 2003 to 2017, Pool 9 sauger abundance did not change.

Fishing Regulations for walleye and sauger:
15-inch minimum size for walleye, sauger of any size may be kept; no more than 6 walleye and sauger (combined) may be kept per day.

